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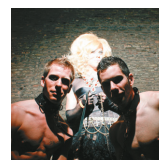


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# Fahrenheit 451: A Literary Global Warming



Because the First Amendment gives Florida's Reverend Terry Jones the right to burn Qur'ans, it should, in the same vein, allow me to refer to him and those of his ilk as "bigoted, hate-filled, publicity-seeking scoundrels."

This was the thought running through my mind as I left on a business trip before September 11, the day the threatened Qur'an burning was to take place. For whatever reasons, Jones did not strike a match, evidently satisfied with the emotions he had whipped up on both sides of the issue from Florida to Afghanistan.

I don't really have an interest in thinking further about Jones, or, for that matter, ubiquitous pastor Fred Phelps of Westboro Baptist Church (WBC). But my calling them both "bigoted, hate-filled, publicity-seeking scoundrels"—if I were to do so—

raises some interesting questions concerning the careless handling of the powerful First Amendment.

Important to consider is that whatever is actually in the hearts of the pastors—which I am no more privy to than I am to the mind of God (gods, spirits, the divine indifference of the Universe)—would I be furthering any good or useful intention by calling them "bigoted, hate-filled, publicity-seeking scoundrels?"

To paraphrase the tag line of the old joke about the dog, should I call them "bigoted, hate-filled, publicity-seeking scoundrels" because I can, or should other considerations and constraints be self-imposed upon my freewheeling invocation of the First Amendment?

When the reverends turn deaf ears, would it at least make *me* feel better to label them "bigoted, hate-filled, publicity-seeking scoundrels?"

Or, is it never best to see how far the bar can be lowered, and therefore, when all is said and done, have to admit one was suckered into using the tactics of "bigoted, hate-filled, publicity-seeking scoundrels," allowing them to win—game, set, and match?

Therefore, I will abjure name-calling at this time. That feels better.

As to book-burning, it has been around since there have been books: the destruction of the Library of Alexandria, Egypt; the burning of books and burying of scholars under China's Qin Dynasty; Nazi conflagrations; and Muslims staging worldwide burnings of Salman Rushdie's *Satanic Verses* in 1989. No age or country is immune.

Yet, knowledge inevitably emerges from the ashes. Much better than burning an unread Qur'an would be to buy a few in paperback, and read them together with the congregation. See what's inside the covers—what's more to cherish than burn. ■

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# HRC Doesn't Build Local Capacity

In its August 27 issue, *Lavender* announced that Human Rights Campaign (HRC) President Joe Solmonese would attend this year's HRC gala. Sorry, but I can't get excited about Solmonese's appearance.

Back in the mid-'90s, I was a contributor to HRC. In fact, I was a member of the President's Circle. (I am not sure if that category of giving even still exists).

After a short time, however, I discovered that HRC really has very little commitment to enabling efforts at the grassroots level (sponsoring a tent at a the local Pride celebration each year to recruit new members/donations doesn't count).

HRC holds numerous gala dinners around the country annually. And, throughout the year, HRC members and others can count on receiving fundraising requests that are accompanied by pleas to the gay community that they must be visible, vocal, and participatory at their local levels on issues like gay marriage and civil rights.

The rub is that HRC does very little to teach people *how* to effectively be visible, vocal, and participatory at the local level.

We are fortunate to live in a large metropolitan area that has been responsive to our demands for representation. But this was not, and is not today, the experience of many teens and adults living in the small-town America where I grew up.

Many individuals struggle with their identity. This struggle is exacerbated by demands from organizations like HRC to "do more!" especially when no support, leadership, or education are provided on the "how to."

There are several competency-based models for leadership development that could be effectively employed by HRC on a statewide or regional basis that would teach people how to be effective individual and systems advocates. Instead, HRC chooses to isolate its efforts in DC.

In fairness, HRC has lent its name to a few high-profile efforts in a few state capitals around the country. But, again, I am not aware of any localized, grassroots efforts by HRC that are designed to promote systemic change or build localized advocacy capacities.

Our battle for civil rights will not be won with only incremental successes in DC. Certain-

ly, those successes are important. But we need to foster successes in small towns, counties, and state capitals across the country as well.

While it is to our advantage as a community to have effective representation in Washington, it is also critical to our ultimate success to have effective representation at the local and state level on school boards, as county commissioners, city council members, mayors, state legislators, etc.

By comparison, Target Corporation CEO Gregg W. Steinhafel may have blundered in the eyes of many in the gay community. But Target continues to give 5 percent of revenue, or approximately \$3 million, weekly to various community-building efforts, many of which support issues important to the gay community.

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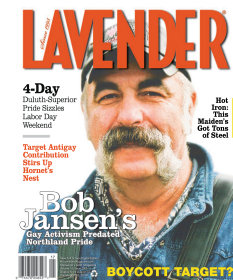
If we as a community are going to call for a boycott of Target, why not include the many other major national organizations that annually give to both liberal and conservative causes and campaigns?

Boycotts, like many other tools in our civil disobedience toolbox, can certainly be effective, but the important thing to know is which tool to use when.

And, no, it is not about the money that Target gives. It is their demonstrated commitment to investing in and building capacities in our communities.

It is fine that HRC asks for our support. I just think that they should give some time and attention back to *build local capacity*. My grandmother used to say, "We're all in this alone, together." The challenges being faced in Crossroads, America, are just as critical and important as those in DC. ■

## > Letters



### Kudos to Bob Jansen

I was pleased to see "that old guy," Bob Jansen, on your August 13 cover. I met Bob in the mid-1980s while living in Duluth. My son had just come out, and Bob was at the forefront of efforts to pass a human rights ordinance in the city. That measure was voted down in a referendum by the citizens of Duluth. Reflecting back over the decades, I am reminded that social change happens in increments, at times almost imperceptibly. I'm grateful for the audacity, vision, and perseverance of leaders like "that old guy." Thank you, Bob.

NANCY WANGLER

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## Hailey Performs with Headliner Uh Huh Her at Duluth-Superior Pride Festival

**POPULAR LESBIAN** musician and actress Leisha Hailey performed as part of headliner Uh Huh Her at the Duluth-Superior Pride Festival on September 4 at Bayfront Festival Park in Duluth, Minnesota. She played Alice Pieszecki in Showtime's hit *The L Word*. In 2005, she founded Marfa Records. She was named the sexiest women in the AfterEllen Hot 100 list compiled by AfterEllen.com in 2007.

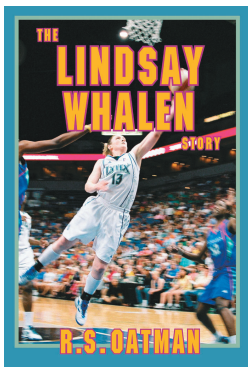
Leisha Hailey. Photo by Sophia Hantzes



## Twin Cities Black Pride Awards Go to Anderson, Jenkins, and Smith

**AT THE** Twin Cities Black Pride (TCBP) Opening Reception & Community Awards on September 9 at the Millennium Hotel Minneapolis, the following individuals were honored: Roxanne Anderson, Diversity and Inclusion Award; Andrea Jenkins, Social Justice and Advocacy Award; and Val Smith, Youth and Families Award. Keynote Speaker was International Federation of Black Prides Executive Director Earl Fowlkes. TCBP Board President Earnest Simpkins participated in the event.

(From left) Earnest Simpkins, Roxanne Anderson, Andrea Jenkins, Val Smith, Earl Fowlkes. Photo by Sophia Hantzes



## Photo by Hantzes Appears on *The Lindsay Whalen Story* Cover

**SOPHIA HANTZES'S** photo of the Minnesota Lynx guard appears on the cover of *The Lindsay Whalen Story*, by R.S. Oatman. Book signings: October 6, Noon, University of Minnesota Bookstores Coffman Union; October 7, Noon, Barnes & Noble, Eighth and Nicollet, Minneapolis; October 7, 7 PM, Barnes & Noble, Mall of America; October 8, 1 PM, Border's Rosedale; October 8, 5:30 PM, Hutchinson High School in Whalen's hometown.

Book Cover Photo by Sophia Hantzes



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[ by Heidi Fellner ]

I

I have managed to hoard one dusty bottle of wine. I don't know what type of occasion I am saving it for. That's not what's important. This bottle of wine is special. It isn't available at any liquor store in Minnesota. In fact, the only place you can purchase a bottle is at the Ledson Winery in Sonoma Valley, or online. I stumbled upon this family-run winery last year. I was so

## CARE ACT BODES ILL FOR WINERIES LIKE ALEXIS BAILLY

Wine Connoisseurs Would Suffer As Well

impressed by the unique quality of its wines that I immediately bought a case.

Thanks to the US Supreme Court's 2005 decision, *Granholm v. Heald*, I also can purchase Ledson wine online. Some day soon, that is what I must do, because every wine, like every human being, is unique, and I have grown very fond of this one.

I'm overly sentimental about wine, considering that I grew up in South Dakota—a state where belonging to any Internet wine club is prohibited. Perhaps more states would have rules like this, except for legal chal- ➔

Photos by Hubert Bonnet



## > CARE Act

lenges that have become expensive and tiresome, both to the states and to wholesalers, which wish to maintain the three-tier system of manufacturer, wholesaler, and retailer that was created after Prohibition.

Admittedly, a quick visit to the liquor store often suits me just fine. But some occasions require special wine I only can find online.

Apparently, that's a concern for Congress. A bill drafted by the National Beer Wholesalers Association (NBWA) has been sent to committee after being introduced in April in the US House of Representative.

HR 5034, the Comprehensive Alcohol Regulatory Effectiveness (CARE) Act of 2010, has alarmed both wine connoisseurs and small wineries alike. They feel it ultimately could end direct-to-consumer shipping of wine between states, and make it more difficult to challenge existing state laws regarding purchase of alcohol.

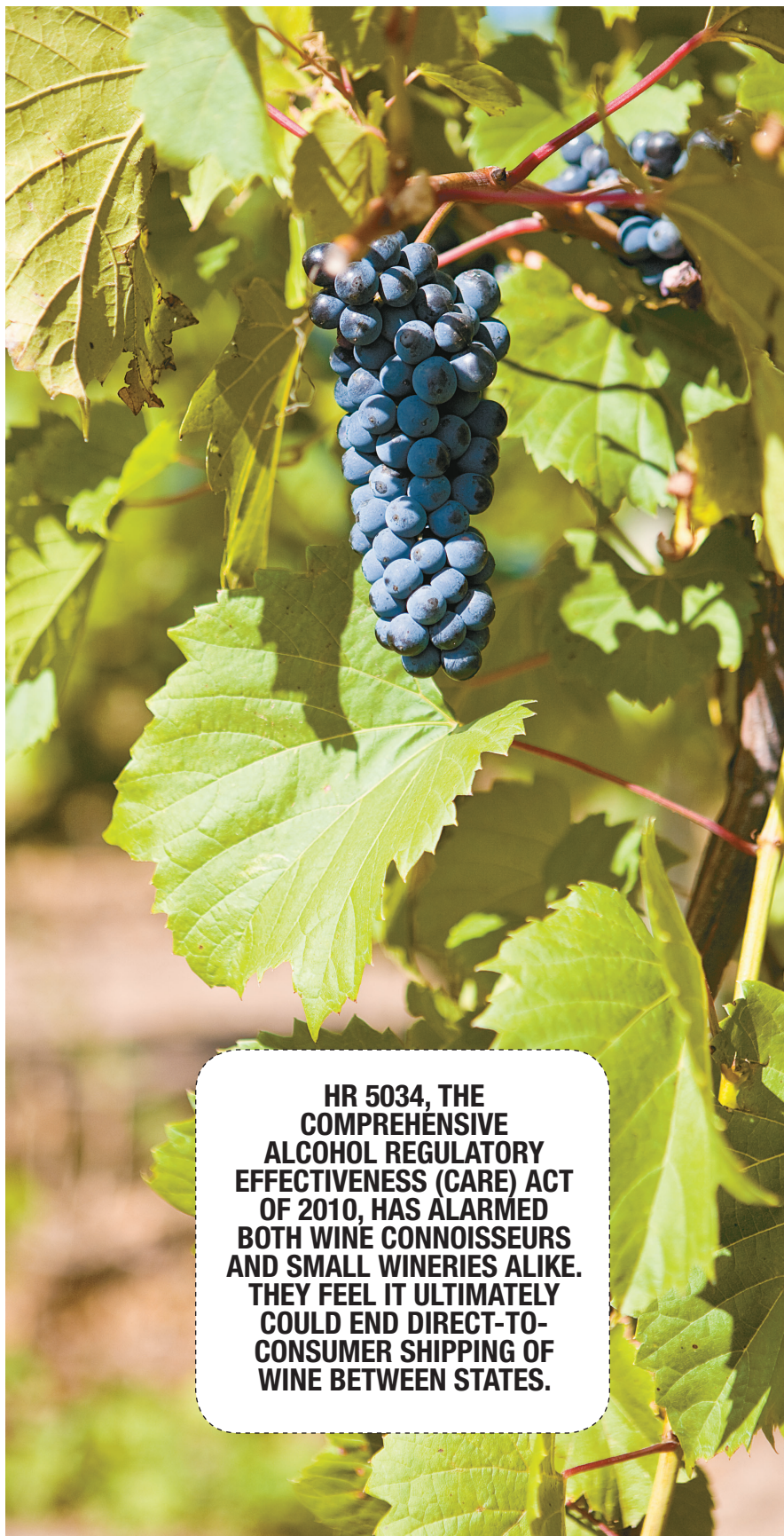
None of the wholesalers or legislators I contacted responded to my inquiries by deadline. (Minnesota's only US Representative who is not already a cosponsor is Keith Ellison.) Supporters of this bill maintain that protecting the three-tier system, which puts the wholesaler in-between a manufacturer and a consumer, protects the public from the dangers of underage alcohol consumption, and safeguards tax revenue of states.

Of course, the bill also would benefit the position of wholesalers as middlemen, and they are a powerful lobby. In fact, since the *Granholm v. Heald* decision, HR 5034's biggest proponents—NBWA, along with the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America—have increased campaign contributions by 33 percent.

If this bill passes as it currently is written, consumers of boutique wines could find it much more difficult, if not impossible, to purchase them.

More importantly, small wineries across America are concerned that the CARE Act would put them out of business. They also are perplexed that wholesalers would view direct sales as such a threat.

Nan Bailly, Master Winemaker at Alexis Bailly Vineyard in Hastings, Minnesota, says, "Internet wine sales represent a miniscule amount of wine sales that happen. People still go to the store to buy their wine. It's not convenient to buy on the Internet. It's expensive, and you have to sign for it anyway. But for me, as a small, unknown winery, even though it's a small part of our sales, it's an introduction for people who would →



**HR 5034, THE  
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## > CARE Act



**MORE IMPORTANTLY, SMALL WINERIES ACROSS AMERICA ARE CONCERNED THAT THE CARE ACT WOULD PUT THEM OUT OF BUSINESS.**

normally not know I exist. Making just one more sale is a big deal on my bottom line.”

As to protecting the public, Bailly feels the public already is protected sufficiently through existing legislation.

Bailly points out, “You cannot purchase alcohol *anywhere* without showing proper identification. It’s no different from a salesperson in a liquor store to a bartender in a club to a deliveryman at the door.”

Big wineries aren’t to feel the pinch of this proposed law lightly. After all, distributors across the country already are pushing brands like Mondavi and Beringer. But it doesn’t make as much financial sense for a distributor to promote smaller labels, so a Minnesotan winery’s success depends on building rela-

tionships with its customers directly.

The Minnesota Grape Growers Association hasn’t taken an official position on the CARE Act, although several of its members have expressed their concerns.

Tami Bredeson, President of Carlos Creek Winery, explains, “It’s difficult to get big distributors interested in purchasing our products. They don’t understand Frontenac grapes. It takes a lot of grassroots education to let them know that Frontenac is a great grape, and that’s done best by the people who are growing it and brewing it. *We’re* the passionate enthusiasts for cold-climate viticulture.”

While Bredeson hopes Minnesota’s wine industry one day will grow large enough to tempt distributors, right now, the three-tier

system is not a good way to expand or even maintain local businesses.

Moreover, Bredeson agrees with Bailly that the concerns for public safety are misplaced—perhaps even misleading.

Bredeson notes, “There is not always a clear connection between liquor laws and public safety. It seems incongruous that the NBWA, an organization that opposed legislation to lower the legal blood alcohol level and bans on indoor smoking, would maintain that Internet sales of alcohol represent a public-safety issue.”

It could be worse for Minnesotan wineries. They could be dealing with the laws some distilleries must abide by.

Paul Werni, founder and owner of 45th Parallel, has been making a grain-to-glass vodka that was ranked 1st Vodka on the “115 Top 5 Star Spirits” list by *Spirit Journal* in 2009.

Werni recalls, “I was getting calls from around the country, and they wanted to order directly from us, and I had to tell them they had to go to a liquor store in Chicago. It’s hard to get into other states sometimes. If they could just order directly from us, it would be great. But beer or wine have been treated differently from distilled spirits for quite some time.”

The laws are more restrictive, but they have some of the same effects.

Werni remarks, “The distribution laws have good intentions, but the unintended consequence is that they’re geared toward the large national brands.”

If you would like to purchase any of 45th Parallel’s products—the company also started crafting a gin last spring—you can visit its distillery in New Richmond, Wisconsin. Or, you could track it down at a liquor store in Wisconsin, Illinois, Utah, California, or Minnesota.

Minnesota’s current wine-shipping policy is one of the more lenient in the country—a privilege we should not take for granted.

Of course, even if the CARE Act gets through committee, it probably will be amended. It may not get passed at all. But in this economy, small businesses like Bailly’s or Bredeson’s can’t afford another setback. They want to compete with every other wine in a free market.

As Bredeson puts it, “The Minnesota Grape Growers believe we make excellent wines, that Minnesota has some unusual grapes you can’t get anywhere else, and people will want to buy them. We don’t have to mandate anything to get people to buy our wines. Legislating customer choices is never going to be a lasting solution.” ■



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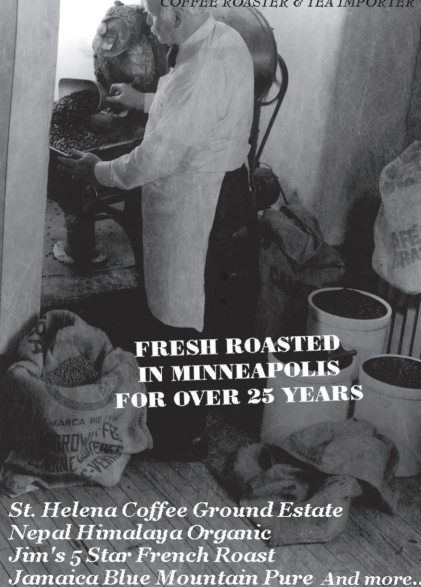
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Fall Wine & Dine > Off the Eaten Path

# THE ST. PAUL GRILL

**CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF SUPERLATIVE CUISINE**

[ by Heidi Fellner ]

At first glance, The St. Paul Grill does not seem like an apt choice to feature in a column bearing the name “Off the Eaten Path.” If there were an “eaten path,” this restaurant, after 20 solid years in the heart of Downtown St. Paul’s theater district, is decidedly *on* it. It has been in business long enough to see children of patrons grow up, and start families of their own. →

Dining Area. Photos by Hubert Bonnet



> Off the Eaten Path



Escargots stuffed with Boursin Cheese and wrapped in a Crispy Wonton with Lemon Garlic Butter Sauce.





> Off the Eaten Path

Hash Browns, Bacon, and White Onions.



Selection of Wines.

## THE ST. PAUL GRILL'S MENU FEATURES CLASSIC DISHES PREPARED WITH A TWIST. FOR EXAMPLE, ESCARGOTS ARE NOT THE TYPICAL EXCUSES TO SOP GARLIC BUTTER.

However, after one of many little chats with our server—a 20-year veteran herself—I realized that The St. Paul Grill is a more fitting subject than I previously thought.

Many people dine at The St. Paul Grill on their way to a show or a game. It often has an intense dinner rush, especially during hockey season, and a rushed diner does not have the same experience that a relaxed one has. Our server was quick to assure me that the restaurant certainly can accommodate a tight schedule. But I believe it truly shines when diners have no “other” show to rush off to. The food here *is* the show. You just have to step off the beaten path long enough really to eat.

The St. Paul Grill's menu features classic dishes prepared with a twist. For example, the Escargots (\$7.95) are not the typical excuses to sop garlic butter. The custardy sauce is fragrant with lemon. These succulent mollusks are stuffed with boursin cheese, and swaddled in a wonton wrapper to keep them tender during their bath in the fryer. The rich sauce begs for a second career as a bread dip, and should you neglect to use it in this manner, you would be missing out on half the fun.

In fact, the sauces throughout the entire menu are quite

noteworthy, so it is wise to keep bread handy to appreciate them fully. That concept is definitely true of Hot Peppered Shrimp (\$12.95), which are spicy and slightly sweet. In one bite, it whisked me back to pre-Katrina Bourbon Street.

A glass of fruity, cinnamon-laced Summer Sangria, which was our aperitif, actually was serviceable with the fiery shrimp. I casually sipped it throughout the first portion of the meal, and ended up spilling little smudged droplets here and there (while gesturing excitedly about the food), until our tablecloth looked rather alarmingly like the Shroud of Turin.

However, for the Escargots, and subsequently the Pear Berry Salad (\$9.95), we indulged in the mellow, rounded Girard Sauvignon Blanc (\$9.75). Especially with the salad's toasted-'til-buttery walnuts and tempting triangle of white cheddar, it was a perfect partner.

While some of the menu has stayed constant over the restaurant's two decades, the seafood selection is one area where Executive Chef Doug Tigges's influence over the past two years is especially strong. Sea Bass (\$31.95) is a flakey, moist perfection beneath its flavorful Parmesan crust. I barely →

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> Off the Eaten Path



Roast Tenderloin sliced and served with Sauce of the Day



Lamb Chops; Grilled Domestic Lamb Rib Chops with Jalapeño-Mint Jelly

**WHILE SOME OF THE MENU HAS STAYED CONSTANT OVER THE RESTAURANT'S TWO DECADES, THE SEAFOOD SELECTION IS ONE AREA WHERE EXECUTIVE CHEF DOUG TIGGES'S INFLUENCE OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS IS ESPECIALLY STRONG.**

needed its mustard dill sauce, but it found worthy employment with the accompanying asparagus.

A glass of languid Zaca Mesa Syrah (\$12.50) heralded the arrival of red meat, and I was a-quiver with anticipation. The knife-optional Roast Tenderloin (\$29.95) met and exceeded my expectations. Its treatment changes day to day, but I only can wonder what would top a port wine and rosemary demi-glace, with melt-in-your-mouth applewood-smoked blue cheese.

As truly beautiful as that tenderloin was, I am an unrepentant glutton for lamb, and Lamb Chops (\$38.95) with jalapeño-mint jelly were extraordinary. I appreciate gamey meats, so I used the condiment sparingly. But if you're old-school about your lamb, jalapeño-mint jelly takes the gaminess down a bit, while giving you a little something in return.

Side dishes are made to share. Hash Browns (\$8.95) with bacon and white onions are almost the size of a small, single-layered cake—crispy on the outside, soft on the inside, and made to get you through the coming winter.

For dessert, we dug into streusel-topped Apple Crisp (\$6.95)—which lives up to its name—with a dollop of cinna-

mon ice cream (\$2). Turtle Tart (\$7.95) possesses such a sinfully silky texture, I almost noticed *that* before I did the bewitching bittersweet chocolate drizzled with caramel.

At home, I call a good single malt Scotch “dessert.” The St. Paul Grill’s list is impressive. My dining partner and I indulged in 16-year-old peaty but smooth Lagavulin (\$22), as well as smoky, spunky 12-year Highland Park (\$12).

The St. Paul Grill’s longevity and its popularity are no mystery: classic yet signature recipes, prepared with attention to detail. With its skilled wait staff and handsome, upscale decor, the establishment is admittedly the perfect beginning to an evening out on the town. But in my opinion, it can be the beginning, middle, *and* end. ■

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# THE MIGHTY MOJITO

OLIVIER AZZOPARDI OF THE SOFITEL OFFERS SUGGESTIONS

[ by Heidi Fellner ]

The mojito, like any worthy cocktail, has a muddled history, garnished here and there with myth and ne'er-do-wells.

Some believe the mojito is relatively young, perhaps concocted by Cuban slaves in the late 1800s to coincide with the advent of Bacardi rum.

However, in an alternative version of the mojito's birth, the details were lost to time and perhaps strong spirits. This account suggests it dates back to 1586, when the notorious pirate/explorer Francis Drake attempted to plunder Havana's gold. Apparently, he didn't fare well, but it nevertheless inspired a strong drink in his honor, known as El Draque, or "the dragon." Instead of rum, the Draque drew its firepower from aguardiente—a stronger, more primitive version of the same. When that pirate rotgut was replaced with more refined Bacardi rum, the Draque became the mojito.

Whichever the story, the mojito was a favorite cocktail in Cuba by the 1920s; established itself across the bounding main in Florida in the 1930s and 1940s; and eventually became trendy in metropolitan areas across the United States.

The mojito has evolved into such a bar staple that mixologists now are now adding their own touches to personalize the classic recipe, which is: muddle 12 mint leaves with half a lime; add two tablespoons of simple syrup; fill a glass with ice; add rum; top with club soda; stir; and garnish with a lime wedge, plus a few sprigs of mint. Voila!—the classic mojito.

A few adjustments to this recipe still are considered fairly traditional. For example, if you don't like so much sweetness, you can add angostura bitters, as do many establishments in Havana.

If you want to personalize it, you can experiment with muddling a few fresh berries in addition to the mint and lime, adding a dash of fruit juice, or even using a flavored (preferably clear) rum.

According to Olivier Azzopardi, Bar Manager at The Sofitel in Bloomington, a mojito is no longer a mojito without

lime, mint, and rum. If you use those three, and maintain an overall balance, you may customize to your heart's content. Moreover, if you can find more exotic fresh mint—with freshness being key—feel free to play.

Azzopardi cautions, "There is pineapple mint, but the taste is totally not the same, and you usually can't find the same freshness."

As well, Azzopardi suggests tinkering with the treatment of your mint: "If you want a very strong tasting mojito, chop the mint leaves at the very last minute, instead of crushing them."

The Sofitel is capitalizing on the mojito trend this year with 10 versions of the classic drink—all only \$6 each—including the classic, perhaps pirate-inspired version, plus variations with pomegranate, strawberry puree, crushed red pepper, or even vanilla ice cream. This last, the "Iced Mojito," is dangerously smooth and wickedly refreshing.

The Sofitel is part of a French hotel chain, but Azzopardi notes that the mojito is actually very popular in the south of France, where average summer temperatures soar into the mid-80s.

As Azzopardi recalls, "When I was younger, having a mojito on the terrace in the south of France was the best way to get refreshed."

Of course, it's September, so "cool" and "refreshing" are going to sound a little less attractive than in the dog days of summer. But the mojito is flexible enough, and certainly tasty enough, to satisfy a thirsty pirate year-round.

Azzopardi points out that the mojito pairs well with most Caribbean-inspired or spicy food, such as coconut shrimp, fish, or even hot wings.

Given the cruel Minnesota winters, the classic mojito is a wonderful reminder that as the weather turns colder, somewhere, the sun still is shining. And if you aren't buying that bit of claptrap, this cocktail also happens to be a wonderful excuse to drink rum. ■



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[ Written & Compiled by Bradley Traynor ]

**LOCAL**



## HRC COUNTERS TARGET MONEY IN MINNESOTA

Human Rights Campaign (HRC) President Joe Solmonese told the Associated Press that the organization would donate a total of \$150,000 to a Democratic-backed political fund, a Minnesota gay-rights organization, and Democratic candidates in response to Target Corporation's donation to a group supporting antigay Republican Minnesota gubernatorial candidate Tom Emmer. Solmonese added that HRC might contribute more in Minnesota, as it sees the state as one of the next to legalize same-sex marriage. He said, "We've understood long before the Target situation that Minnesota was poised, as is New York, to be the next state to win marriage equality."

**NATIONAL**



## FEDERAL JUDGE WILL ISSUE ORDER TO HALT DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL

US District Judge Virginia Phillips, who decided in September that the military's ban on openly gay service members was unconstitutional, said she would issue an order to halt the ban. She ruled that the ban violates the US Constitution's First and Fifth Amendment rights of gays and lesbians. Log Cabin Republicans initiated the case that led to the ruling. Lawyers for the federal government argue that the judge lacks the authority to issue a nationwide injunction. The Justice Department can appeal the ruling, but has not announced what it will do.

## GAY FEDERAL WORKERS CAN TAKE LEAVE WITHOUT PAY

According to *The Washington Post*, changes by the US Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will allow gay and lesbian federal workers with a same-sex partner to take unpaid leave for family educational and medical needs. They have been able to take paid leave for sick or dying same-sex partners since July. OPM Director John Berry said, "Anything we can do to make our federal employees know that we respect them, and we want to treat them equally, we should be about doing."

## GAY SAUDI DIPLOMAT SEEKS US ASYLUM

Agence-France Presse reports that Saudi Arabian diplomat Ali Ahmad Asseri is seeking political asylum in United States because he is gay, and is close friends with a Jewish woman. Formerly First Secretary of the Saudi consulate in Los Angeles, he claims his diplomatic passport was allowed to expire and his job terminated after Saudi officials discovered the information. Asseri told NBC, "My life is in a great danger here, and if I go back to Saudi Arabia, they will kill me openly in broad daylight." He posted a letter on a Saudi website criticizing the country's "backwardness," as well as threatening to make public embarrassing information about the Saudi royal family living in the United States.



## SERBIAN POLICE TO PROTECT GAY PRIDE MARCHERS

Serbian police have promised to protect gay and lesbian marchers during the country's first Pride parade in a decade, scheduled for October 10. Organizers say they've received threats of violence from right-wing extremists. Similar threats forced the cancellation of last year's parade. However, this year, Police Chief Ivica Dacic stated that authorities would not tolerate violence during the parade, and are taking a serious look into the threats.

## HIV SPREADING "OUT OF CONTROL" AMONG FRENCH GAY MEN

According to a published study, transmission of the HIV virus among gay men in France is "out of control," despite an overall decline in the number of new HIV cases in the country. Scientists from the French National Institute for Public Health Surveillance found that nearly half of the 7,000 people newly infected with HIV in the country in 2008 were gay men, and the incidence among gay men is 200 times higher than in the heterosexual population. Experts hope the findings lead French authorities to implement new prevention strategies. The study appeared in the journal *Lancet Infectious Diseases*. ■



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## The Aliveness Project Reaches Challenge Grant Goal

An important “challenge grant” opportunity was presented to The Aliveness Project earlier this summer. The \$100,000 challenge was matched through a large number of donations received by August 31.

The Aliveness Project is a multiservice community center for men and women living with HIV/AIDS and their family members. Best-known for its hot meals and food shelf at its current facility at 38th and Chicago in Minneapolis, the organization also provides integrative therapies, case management, Holiday Baskets, and other support services. Each year, approximately 1,600 individuals benefit from these services, as well as finding a community for building friendships and sharing support with others who are living with this disease.

In May, Shayna Berkowitz and Phyllis Wiener, along with Still Ain't Satisfied, A Foundation With Attitude, committed

\$50,000 to The Aliveness Project's Positive Impact Capital Campaign as a challenge grant to be matched by other foundations and donors. An additional \$50,000 was raised by The Aliveness Project to increase the matching grant to \$100,000. The “You Give, We Give” challenge was announced in June.


Joe Larson, Executive Director of The Aliveness Project, said, “We are very pleased with the response we received from our community. We received significant contributions from four local foundations, as well as a variety of small to mid-sized gifts from generous individuals. We will permanently recognize Still Ain't Satisfied, A Foundation With Attitude and each matching donor in our new building at 38th and Nicollet.”

Randy Hornstine, Board President of The Aliveness Project, noting the signifi-

cance of this challenge, explained, “We wanted to offer donors the chance to be a part of creating a new home for The Aliveness Project, and this was a vital first step. This process has increased the campaign's visibility, and is a strong incentive to our dedicated Campaign Committee to find similar opportunities.”

More than \$104,000 was received through the challenge. So far, a total of \$700,000 has been committed to the Positive Impact Capital Campaign, with a number of requests under review and many additional sources to approach. The campaign goal of \$2,500,000 is expected to be reached in 2012.

For more information about The Aliveness Project's capital campaign, contact Tim Marburger, Director of Fundraising and Special Events, at (612) 822-7946, extension 204. ■

A black and white portrait of Fabian Hoffner, a man with short dark hair, smiling at the camera. He is wearing a light-colored button-down shirt.

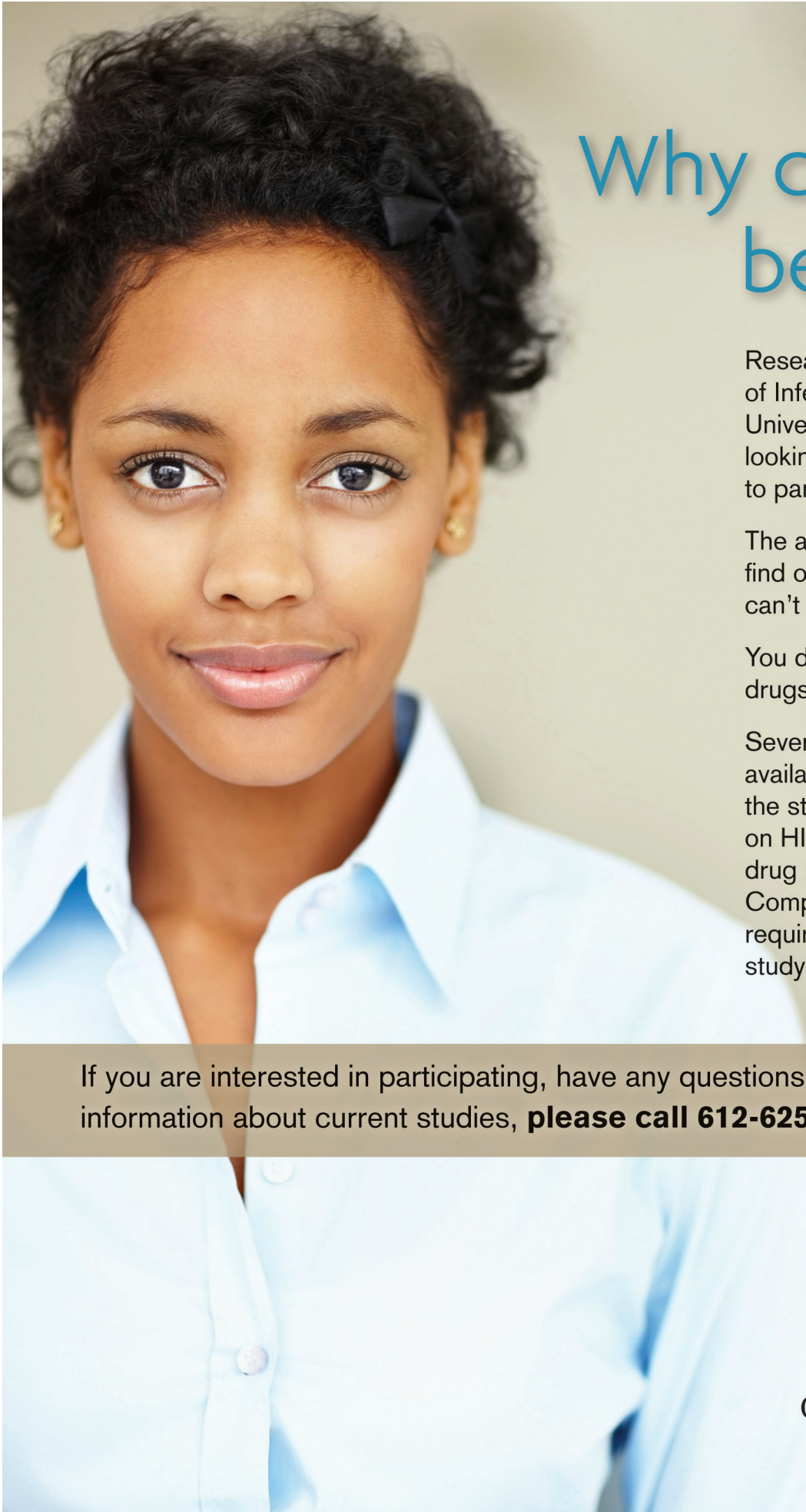
# Fabian Hoffner

## Attorney

DWI – Criminal Defense  
Former Assistant Attorney General

(612) 305-4428

[FabianHoffner.com](http://FabianHoffner.com)



# Why can't HIV be cured?

Researchers from the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Minnesota are looking for HIV+ and HIV- people to participate in research studies.

The aim of these studies is to find out why HIV persists and can't be cured with HIV drugs.

You do not need to be on HIV drugs to qualify.

Several opportunities are available and depending upon the study, you may be started on HIV drugs or your current drug regimen may be adjusted. Compensation and time requirements vary based on the study for which you may qualify.

If you are interested in participating, have any questions, or would like more information about current studies, **please call 612-625-7472**



UNIVERSITY  
OF MINNESOTA





**A Few Good Men.** Photo by Lorena Altamirano

## A FEW GOOD MEN

Through Oct. 3

Sabes Jewish Community Center,  
4330 Cedar Lake Rd., St. Louis Park  
(612) 396-2025

<[www.urbansamurai.org](http://www.urbansamurai.org)>

Guantanamo Bay. Hazing. Accidental killing. Aaron Sorkin's drama struck a nerve when it premiered in 1989, and it still resonates.

Urban Samurai Director Matthew Greseth says the play asks, "Are we willing to suspend or give up some freedoms to ensure that others are upheld? How far are we willing to let our government and military go to protect us from those who wish to harm us? What is the price tag for peace of mind, and who determines at what point that price is too high?"

## 515

Sept. 30-Oct. 10

Patrick's Cabaret  
3010 Minnehaha Ave. S., Mpls.  
(612) 388-8628

<[www.flowershopproject.com](http://www.flowershopproject.com)>

This partnership between GLBT-rights group Project 515 and theatrical troupe The Flower Shop Project is what choreographer Bryan Gerber calls "an artistic representation of the real-life discrimination faced by same-sex couples who reside in this state. Research shows there are at least 515 laws in our state that exclude same-sex couples from certain rights and benefits that should



**515.** Photo Courtesy of The Flower Shop Project and Sarah Broude

be provided to everyone. 515 highlights many of these laws through song, theater, and dance. It presents a vision of equality where all families are equal under the law—in their homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, and communities."

## A COOL DRINK OF WATER

Through Oct. 10

Mixed Blood Theatre  
1401 S. 4th St., Mpls.  
(612) 338-6131

<[www.mixedblood.com](http://www.mixedblood.com)>

To open Mixed Blood Theatre's 35th season, Obie-winner Marion McClinton directs this present-day update of the family immortalized in bisexual playwright Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*. Playwright Thomas W. Jones II notes that her African-American female characters were struggling to break out of conventional and restrictive roles.

Jones explains, "The women of *Cool Drink* have realized some of what the Hansberry women aspired to, but now recognize that the battlefield is more complex. They're able to see the contradictions of middle-class life. Education is not the answer, and women are still facing enormous obstacles. They've discovered that the more sophisticated you become, the more sophis-

ticated those in power become. These are highly-evolved women who have achieved something personally, professionally, and academically, but they're still fighting for a place in a world, in a culture, and in a family that are under constant revision."

## ECLIPSED

Through Oct. 10

The Playwrights' Center  
2301 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls.  
(612) 724-3760

<[www.franktheatre.org](http://www.franktheatre.org)>

How would you dress women who are chattel in a recent Liberian civil war? Acclaimed costume designer Kathy Kohl depicts that in Obie-winner Danai Gurira's acclaimed play.

Kohl relates, "I researched pictures from 2003 Liberia, selecting iconic portraits of women surviving the war as my base images—using them as starting points in collecting costumes. I noted the Western influence in the jeans and tops of the young female soldiers, and though other women wore African print skirts and head wraps, they paired them with Western skirts and tank tops. The basis of the women's wardrobes is the loot presented to them by the soldiers who keep them, resulting in a worn, random, layered look." →



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## > On the Townsend

### THE OLDEST STORY IN THE WORLD

Through Oct 10

Southern Theater

1420 Washington Ave. S., Mpls.

(612) 340-0155

[www.southerntheater.org](http://www.southerntheater.org)

Theatre Novi Most Director Lisa Channner is staging Kira Obolensky's adaptation of the ancient Sumerian epic *Gilgamesh*, with an eye toward homoromanticism.

Channer observes, "Gilgamesh [Erik Hoover] is an arrogant king, made two-thirds divine, one-third human by the gods. As a way to balance his tyrannical temperament, the gods make a partner for him, Enkidu [Billy Mullaney], who is two-thirds animal, one-third human, and with whom Gilgamesh finds peace and a new calmer self. The death of Enkidu is the start of a process of mourning—as a man mourns a wife—that takes Gilgamesh on an epic search for immortality. The story takes place in the ancient city of Uruk, near present-day Iraq, which had its own patron diety, Ishtar, goddess of love and sex. Therefore, Uruk was a place of acceptance and sexual diversity. We call it the San Francisco of the ancient world!" ■

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thru  
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Cabaret

project

515

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[www.project515.org](http://www.project515.org)



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photo: Austin Young | [MargaretCho.com](http://MargaretCho.com)





**Body Talk, Part 2**  
ROBYN

**Listen up,** Katy Perry (and, to be honest, plenty of others): This is how you make driving dance music. On the second (of three) albums Robyn plans to release in 2010, the Swedish singer continues the satisfying merging of hot funk and cold electronic that has marked her previous work. With seven new cuts and a strings-only version of “Indestructible,” she hits the dance floor hard and quick before heading out after about half an hour. Along the way, she lays waste to dance floors; lovers; and, well, lovers on the dance floor (the driving dirt of “Criminal Intent”). Snoop Dogg, fresh from his Katy Perry crossover, provides a so-so rap on the otherwise strong “U Should Know Better.” Robyn channels Kraftwerk on “We Dance to the Beat,” but still manages to make it sound hot. The finale could have been another tossed-off “I’m so strong” ballad, but Robyn plus the strings make it work.



**Serendipity**  
LORIE LINE

**The popular pianist** comes out of the studio with her first all-original collection of songs in a decade. Written over a two-week span earlier this summer (with Lorie Line setting out each day to write a new tune), the collection has a free, almost effortless vibe to it—always difficult to pull off, but oh so rewarding for the listener. The titles—including “My Muddy Man” (about her husband, Jim); “Casa Blanca Me Encanta,” an ode to their home; and “Mother Earth,” easy to fathom—stick close to ideas of a well-lived life. *Serendipity* has plenty of signs that it was an album made in Minnesota, from a gentle composition titled “The Cows” to the easy-to-understand “Lake Minnetonka.” The playing is as sharp as you would expect from a seasoned pro, all the while aided and augmented by a fleet of backing musicians who work to bring out the full power of Line’s inspired songs.



**Teenage Dream**  
KATY PERRY

**She wants** to be the queen of the pop songster ball, but artists more popular (Lady Gaga) and talented (Robyn plus many others) outstrip Katy Perry in nearly every way. It didn’t help that this album was fueled by the big hit of the early summer, “California Gurls,” which passed its stay-fresh date by the time the album dropped. At album length, Perry’s shortcomings come to the fore. Her singing is fairly pedestrian. Once you get deeper than the peppy, poppy singles, a lot of musical sludge must be listened through, even on a relatively short collection. It reaches its nadir, fittingly enough, at the end (apart from some useless remixes) with “Pearl,” which features this puzzling, Alanis Morissette-level couplet: “She could be the Statue of Liberty/She could be Joan d’Arc.” Not sure what a giant statue or a Middle-Ages religious leader have to do with a lame pop ballad. Stick to the singles here.



**Zeroes QC**  
SUUNS

**Over time,** the lines that defined different pieces of the music pie have blurred to the point of being nonexistent. Bands now freely pick and choose their own little sub-categories. Suuns fall roughly into a parcel of acts merging moody electronics, some danceable beats, and jangling to harsh guitars into a sound that works more often than it does not. On *Zeroes QC*, the band goes from spare electronics that wouldn’t sound out of place on an XX or Phantogram record to enough guitar racket to bring to mind classic-era Jesus and Mary Chain. In the end, the artist who seems to be closest to the surface is Beck—*Zeroes QC* has the same sense of anything can happen. The album does lack cohesion, plus the blur of ideas and sounds can wear the listener down. But plenty of good spread throughout the record is enough to make you come back for more. ■

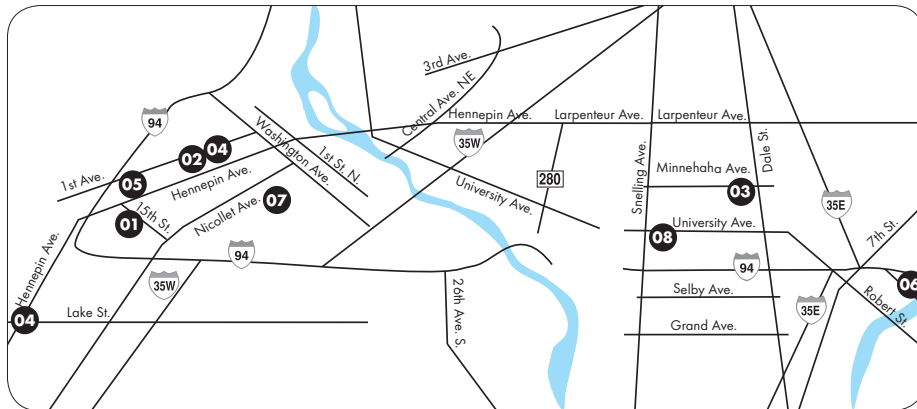
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## Bartender Spotlight |

[ by George Holdgrafer ]



► NIKKI

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Nikki

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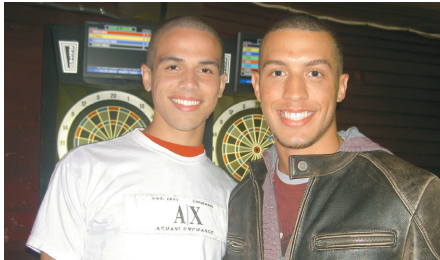


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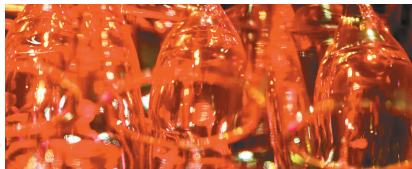
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## Bar Scene > Bar Calendar

For club addresses, phone numbers, and Web sites, see "Bar Advertiser Guide" on page 36. For events not at bars, see <LavenderMagazine.com/calendar>.



### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Gary Collins

5 PM. Tickle's.

#### Get Bent

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# Leather Generations: Dialectic or Debate?

Over the years, this column has dealt several times with issues of intergeneration and intercommunity conflict. This conflict often is characterized as between the “Old Guard” (those who value, and try to preserve, the community hierarchy and other traditions leather culture inherited from its military beginnings) and the “New Guard” (those who either don’t care about, or who outright reject, these traditions).

Sometimes, conflict also surfaces between other community groups—those who identify as “leather” and those who identify as “BDSM” or “fetish,” for example—or between various combinations of GLBT people and heterosexuals.

When conflict happens, communication between the groups in conflict can take several forms.

One is debate, in which each group tries to convince the other group that its way is correct, and the other group’s way is incorrect. Sometimes, one side is convinced. Sometimes, each side just digs in its heels.

Another way to deal with conflict is through dialectic, in which the two sides engage in discussion that eventually produces a third viewpoint superior to either of the original viewpoints.

I recently heard the concept of dialectic described in a sermon preached by the Reverend Keith Hohly, Pastor of First Lutheran Church, Mission Hills, Kansas. (Sometimes, the universe speaks to us when we least expect it.)

Dialectic goes all the way back to ancient Greece, and discussions of it have filled many books throughout the centuries. In his sermon, however, Hohly discussed dialectic as a style of communication between parents and children. I recognized right away that what he was saying applied also to intergenerational and other struggles within the leather/BDSM/fetish community.

Here’s how Hohly explained it: Parents have values that they wish to impart to their children. This part of the dialectic is called the “thesis.” Children rebel against these values: “antithesis.” Ideally, out of the combination of thesis and antithesis comes “synthesis,” something different from but better than either the original thesis or the antithesis. The synthesis becomes the new thesis, and the process starts over again. This is how people and communities evolve, and progress is made.

It’s not that children shouldn’t rebel. On the contrary, it’s part of their job to rebel as a way of declaring their independence from their parents. It’s healthy for them to rebel. Parents sometimes might wish it were otherwise, but good ones know that part of raising the next generation is enduring the process of having it assert its independence.

Sometimes, parents or their offspring refuse to be part of the process, as in “my way or the highway.” With no willingness to try to understand the other side’s position, the discussion often turns into a debate that convinces no one, and solves nothing. It has no middle ground and no synthesis.

Now, let’s apply all this to ourselves. Consider how leather arose in the first place. Our community took the rebel role against then-mainstream society’s vanilla values and practices. No attempt at dialectic took place then.

History shows what happened: Leather

culture was underground, and divorced from mainstream culture, for many years. It is only relatively recently that mainstream society has seen any value in our culture, and then often only as a way to shock people and sell things. But it’s at least some kind of dialogue.

Within our then-underground community, however, the early history of leather seemed to be free of intergenerational conflict, in that the community’s values and traditions were passed from one generation to the next through a very effective system of mentorship.

That system was torn asunder by the AIDS epidemic. Today, we have traditionalists, most of whom are older, and rebels, most of whom are younger.

Too often, the two groups seem to be arguing in endless debate, when what would be more constructive would be dialectic between the two groups—between all groups, actually, that have a stake in this community and in its future.

The next time you hear an argument in leather circles, listen closely.

Do you hear debate, or do you hear dialectic? Which would you rather hear? Which would you rather contribute to? ■

Shameless commercial message: *Life, Leather and the Pursuit of Happiness*, the new book by your humble columnist, is now available locally at Cockpit Project, Gray’s Leather, Rainbow Road, Smitten Kitten, and True Colors Bookstore (formerly Amazon Bookstore), or from your favorite bookseller.



# Vienna

[ by Carla Waldemar ]

THE BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF *EAT, PRAY, LOVE* COULD HAVE SAVED HERSELF A LOT OF TROUBLE. INSTEAD OF GALUMPHING ALL OVER THE GLOBE, SHE SIMPLY COULD HAVE HEADED FOR VIENNA, AUSTRIA, WHERE IT'S ONE-STOP SHOPPING FOR ALL THREE. NOT TO MENTION COFFEE.

Coffeehouses have acted as Vienna's source of caffeine, insurrection, resurrection, information, and entertainment for more than 300 years, long before Starbucks jumped aboard. You don't just order "coffee" here—that's like ordering, say, "meat—for there are as many variations as Baskin-Robbins flavors. Each comes on a little tray with a pot of cream, a glass of water, and maybe a chocolate. Newspapers on their sturdy sticks, weekend piano players, and primo people-watching all are free.

Café Central is the place to begin, where, since the 1800s, waiters in suits and ties exclaim "Ach, so!" as they set down your choice. Or Café Dreschler, a legendary icon given a Deco facelift by London's Terence Conran. Or Café Mozart, to lounge in the shadow of the royal palace as pony carts clomp by. Or Demel, rivaling Café Sacher for bragging rights to the "authentic" Sachertorte pastry (a court battle ensued). Or the Pepto-pink Aida, the workingman's coffeehouse chain, where portly elders sip their brew "mit schlag" (topped with whipped cream—not such a bad idea).

Eat? We'll get to that in a minute.

As for praying, the opportunities are endless, starting with the city's landmark St. Stephen's, restored to its Gothic grandeur after the bombs of World War II. Here, Mozart's funeral was held, and Napoleon tacked up his good-bye message as he beat it back to France. St. Michael's is where wunderkind Mozart first performed. University Church is the site of many a free concert, such as Haydn's *Creation*, which I enjoyed amid writhing columns of pink and white, more über-the-top than Vegas. Equally Baroque Augustine Chapel is home to Hapsburg weddings. Today, the Scottish Church of 1156 is another wedding cake of swirling pink and beige.

Love, too: Whatever your fancy, Vienna can deliver. Art aficionados can drink in the masterworks of Rembrandt, Dürer, Holbein, and Bruegel at the Fine Arts Museum, while the MAK, dedicated to applied arts, showcases stylish turn-of-the-past-century furniture, china, and jewelry.

Counterculturalists have even more arresting choices. The an- ➔

Albertina Museum. Photos Courtesy of Austrian Tourist Office

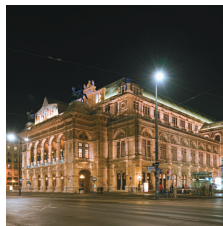




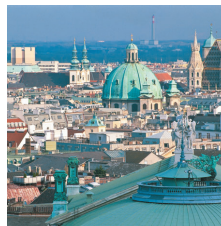




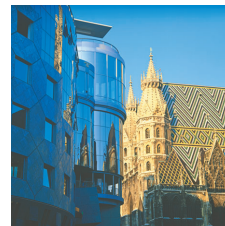
## > Get Outta Town



Opera House



View of Vienna



St. Stephen's Cathedral.

titraditionalist Secession Museum was done up on my visit as a throwback swingers club in the building fondly called the Golden Cabbage for its gilded topknot. The Leopold showcases the unsettlingly suggestive works of Klimt and Schiele (tortured portraits, like the lusty *Cardinal and Nun*, and nude self-views). It's part of the avant Museum Quarter (MQ), where MOMAK also shows works that make the Walker look behind the times.

By the way, MQ is the city's hottest late-night bacchanal for singles of all stripes, including its gaycentric café, Halle. Or check out Motto, the ultimate "in" place by the same owner. Café Berg and Café Savoy draw swarms of GLBTers, especially for Sunday brunch. Join July's Rainbow Parade, where the crowd on the Ring Road goes against the flow—and the traffic. Stick around for the Life Ball and Queer Identities film festival. Gay bars? Vienna invented the genre. Visit <[www.vienna.info/queer](http://www.vienna.info/queer) guide> for what's hot. If love, to you, means marriage, same-sex unions, which became legal this year, can be performed in venues as varied as Schönbrunn Palace, a vintage streetcar, or the city's giant Ferris wheel.

If love means music, then Vienna is the mothership. Besides whatever Mozart/Beethoven/Haydn concert the hunks in waistcoats and powdered wigs are shilling, while discreetly muttering into their not-so-historic cell phones, a visit to the landmark State Opera House is a must. If you cannot swing the 50 euro tickets (me neither), join the line for standing-room places (4 euros), filled with impoverished music-lovers who seem to be under 25 or over 60. Same drill for the venerable Vienna Philharmonic.

The city is so fond of its native composers that it names streets after one and all, the way we do with French explorers. In fact, music is such a staff of life that Strauss waltzes oom-pahed from every loudspeaker along the route of the Vienna Marathon. No, I didn't run, because I'd spent the night before in the hospital's ER, after managing to sprain an ankle. If you've got to take a tumble, I recommend you do it in Vienna, where the whole team was, as they often decalaim in this city, "su-per!"

Plus, it won me the sympathy vote at

Die Fromme Helene, a café within hobbling distance of my splendid hotel, Wein & Design, with sweet staff, contempo rooms, grand breakfast buffet, and—most important—location-location-location. It adjoins the neotrendy 7th District's shops of up-and-coming designers, jewelers, and more: Klipps for haircuts; Be A Good Girl for cult labels; Violettsays, featuring "brands for cheerful women and fearless men"; and Disaster Clothing for, well, casual wear.

Browse the famed pedestrian boulevards Graben and Kartner. Search for antiques on their backstreets, including Dorotheum, a vast auction house where the once-rich-and-famous offer their treasures (fancy watches, Deco accessories, masters' paintings) at ridiculously agreeable prices. Or, sally off to Naschmarkt, where beyond the fab food stalls spreads the flea market, at which descendants of the once-ruling Ottomans offer everything from army boots to bric-a-brac and vintage fashion. The newer Brunnenmarkt is even more multiculti in its flavors, strolled by ladies discreetly swathed in head scarves and long, black manteaus.

Now to that all-important eat part. In alliance with the art part, several of the city's finest dining finds are in cultural venues. Österreich im MAK, named for the chef who traded his fine-dining cred for more accessible fare in the museum's airy setting, devotes half its menu to traditional dishes (goulash with dumpling, schnitzels, noodles with caramelized cabbage), while the other half distills modern Viennese renditions, such as trout atop spinach and root vegetables, or lamb with semolina dumplings and zucchini-pepper toss.

Likewise, in the basement of the Burgtheater flourishes a rathskeller-gone-elitist, haunt of the city's foodies, called Vestibul. Here, I dined on perhaps the best dish of my entire visit—lobster tossed with creamy cabbage—along with ethereal wiener schnitzel partnered with potato salad, and vitello tonnato touting local organic veal atop a rosy tuna slice.

Palmenhaus, another must, is, as its name suggests, a palm-filled conservatory where the food—especially the fish—is as lush as the plants, and the patrons. Consider sea bass grilled with ginger, coriander, and chilies, then insist on palatschinken,

crepe-like pancakes filled with apricot jam.

Just steps from my hotel (Vienna is supersafe to walk at night), I came upon the newly-opened Bernhauer's, a bistro of bright, modern design and kitchen, starring beefsteak with pancetta and mushroom cannelloni, as well as a gossamer schnitzel paired with pureed potatoes. For dessert: warm chocolate cake floating in strawberry-rhubarb compote. At the even-closer Fromme Helene, another cheery, gently sophisticated space, again the schnitzel, light as air, and the cheese strudel over the moon.

Huth, too, offers a pleasant meld of today and tradition, where the President of Austria often is spotted eating lunch. Does he love the carp steamed with minced bacon and garlic as much as I did? Or does he go all trad with onion roast cum fried potatoes and mustard pickles?

Hats off to tradition! Tiny Gasthof Ubl, with its ancient iron stove where families congregate to celebrate, majors in robust dishes like tafelspitz (boiled beef with all the trimmings), pork knuckle, hefty roasts with dumplings, and lots of sausages mit kraut. Ofenbach, in the medieval Jewish Quarter, started life back in 1288 as a bathhouse, then a bakehouse. Today, dirndled servers cheerily deliver fare either old-time (goulash, schnitzels, pancakes stuffed with poppyseeds), or modern (like my chicken stuffed with black pudding aside polenta and apples laced with thyme-honey jus).

Zum Schwartzten Kameel (the Black Camel) takes the middle route, having debuted as a delicatessen back in 1618, and today a pleasure palace of Art Nouveau design where delicatessen, restaurant, and buffet lure ladies who lunch and business suits alike. I was drawn to the arty assortment of finger sandwiches: Just point to two or three (smoked salmon, egg salad); summon a glass of Gruner Veltliner at a sidewalk table; and rest your feet (but not your senses). Finally, Orlando di Castello—all white and trendy—is run by the son of Café Central's owner, just as modern as Dad is déjà-vu.

That's the essence of Vienna: forward as tomorrow, but rooted proudly in the past. Eat, pray, love. To get your share, visit <[www.vienna.info](http://www.vienna.info)>. ■



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SEPTEMBER 4-5



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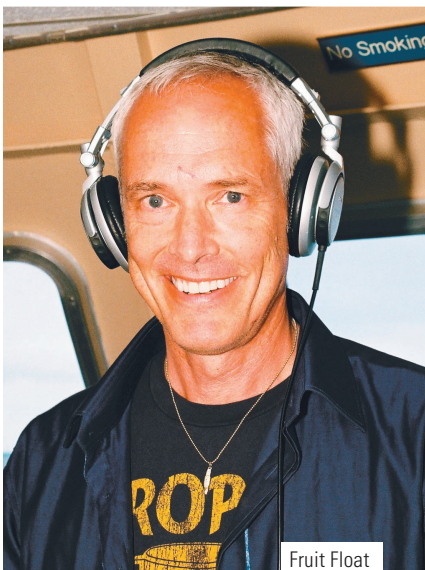
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Parade



Parade



Fruit Float



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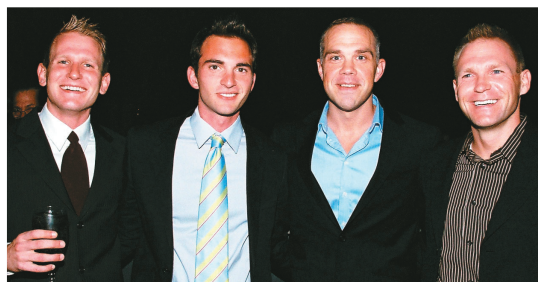


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## LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley Moves to New Home in Eau Claire, Wisconsin

Recently, the LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley marked its 10th anniversary by moving to its new home at 1305 Woodland Avenue, Eau Claire, Wisconsin. A block off Main Street, it's six blocks east of the former location since 2001, 510 South Farwell, in the Wilson Memorial Building adjacent to Christ Church Cathedral.

Founded in 2000, according to its website, "The Community Center's mission is to provide Services and Create Programs To Promote Well-Being and Unity Among LGBT People in the Chippewa Valley Area."

According to Board Treasurer Ann Hoepfner, the center's expanded space—1,500 square feet—no doubt will help the organization better fulfill its mission. Handicapped-accessible and air-conditioned, it offers lots of potential. As well, because it's not on church property, it may attract some who stayed away from the former quarters.

The center already offers a cornucopia of activities, and Hoepfner anticipates new ones will debut. She is Program Manager of rm2breathe, a statewide antitobacco program for LGBT people in Wisconsin hosted by the center. Board Vice President Jessica Janiuk is an Adult Facilitator of Q2, a support and social group for LGBTQ teens that meets Thursday evenings at the center.

Another important part of the center is the John A. Klinger Memorial Lending Library, which offers several thousand books, as well as current magazine subscriptions. *Lavender Magazine* is available there.

With its new home, the center is looking to increase membership, open to any person over 18 and out of high school. Dues are \$15 a year per person for adults, or \$25 a year per household. Scholarships are available for persons (students or limited income) unable to pay dues. The center is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, so membership dues and



**New Community Center Building.**  
Photo Courtesy of LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley

other donations are tax-deductible.

On October 10, 5-9 PM—appropriately enough, the day before National Coming Out Day—the center is hosting its Open House Celebration at the new space, featuring food, door prizes, silent auction, and social time. In addition, the annual meeting and election of new Board of Directors members will take place then. ■

### LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley

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# The Once That Never Was

Perhaps the strongest reminder of what once was is the memory of what *never* was.

We might find ourselves, shortly after our hearts break, frozen helplessly in our empty beds. Here, we appreciate the sadistic symphony of depression and anger—but we'll disguise it with false strength coated in phrases like: "I'm just happy I'm single."

A while thereafter, should we find our beds empty still, we may long again for his whisper, her kiss, his touch, her laugh. We'll flood ourselves with emotions we'll never forget. And, as time distances us from our battered hearts, we'll scar it once more.

The mind will take up where the heart left off. As much as the mind has tamed his heart through the irrational and overwhelming, it will provoke its own catastrophe.

Suddenly, we miss things not as they were—but as we *thought* they were. Our histories warp into fantasy.

Suddenly, life as it is doesn't stack up to how it was. We feel trapped with the delayed torment: "I don't know if I'll ever find something like we had. What have I done?"

At last, false memory eclipses our minds and hearts with that fiendish thing called regret. We'll drown it with our work, our friends, our families, our vices. Or we'll curl up in our empty beds again, and sleep our pain away.

Or...is there something else?

He has broken your heart, and here you are, an eon later, feeling sorry for yourself. She has moved on, and she's happier now than she ever was with you. They're doing things together you never did. To put it most eloquently, it sucks.

We thus self-induce our hearts into coma—the wrath of the mind has again troubled this frequent friend and foe.

Artists portray living with such longing their entire lives. Such pain makes our poetry poignant, our painting powerful, our song meaningful. But such suffering—as beautiful

as history frames it—isn't for all of us.

Some of us want to smile—and mean it. We want to wake up by ourselves, and feel totally content. We want to defy the curse our human nature places upon our minds and hearts—we want them to live forever in harmony.

Perhaps that's where we've dipped a bit into an ironic torture. We spend our lives fighting for peace with the people we wish to give it to: ourselves.

What roads we'll take to get there! We'll change a damaging past into something that's beautiful to cope with it—only then to long for something that never existed.

Unless we wish to exhibit eternal turmoil on a canvas or in a book, why not accept this for what it is—the thing we've been hiding from? The truth.

We look at ourselves, and say, in our infinite charm: "You know what? This really *does* suck. But dammit, that's all right. It *should* suck."

We admit to ourselves in this moment what calmed us for years as clumsy children with scraped knees and bruised skin: "It will be OK."

It was true then. It is now. And that truth, unlike the immature mischief of our adult hearts, never will change. ■



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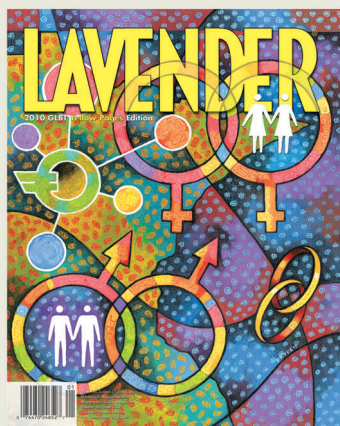
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## Business Profile |

[ by Heidi Fellner ]

### GREEN DARLENE



David and Cindy Bearman. Photo Courtesy of David and Cindy Bearman

The website for one leading cleaning-products company states, "Having a clean bathroom, a clean kitchen, and an overall clean home are an essential part of a healthier lifestyle for the whole family."

Certainly, no one enjoys living in a *dirty* home, but some products that same company sells contain high amounts of toxic chemicals harmful to children, sensitive adults, and pets...hardly the "healthy lifestyle" its customers are bargaining for. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, the air inside most homes is around two to five times more polluted than the air outside, and that pollution is the direct result of household cleaners and pesticides.

David and Cindy Bearman first became interested in green cleaning products as

she was battling breast cancer 11 years ago. What began as a lifestyle decision eventually inspired a business model, and they decided to start their own green cleaning company, Green Darlene, in 2008.

David Bearman says, "All of our products are nontoxic, and have been tested [for effectiveness] by their manufacturer. Some of them are even geared to clean commercial spaces. A lot of commercial properties now are using all-green products."

Green Darlene crews bring their own specialized equipment and cleansers to each home, so a customer doesn't have to invest in new products, or buy an expensive vacuum cleaner, to get effective, efficient service.

The company provides an almost unheard-of flexibility to its customers. Are you hosting a party, and just need someone to tidy up before or after? No problem! Moving out, and have bigger things to worry about than cleaning your old apartment? No problem!

Call Green Darlene, and it will provide a free in-home consultation to discuss your options. Services are flexible as well.

Bearman explains, "We don't just clean. We'll go in and change linens. We'll do somebody's laundry if they like that. We'll clean out refrigerators, and even help declutter their house."

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Bearman shares, "We get a lot of satisfaction when we have customers who are happy and excited after their homes are cleaned by our crews."

For more information, or to get a free estimate, call Green Darlene. ■

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## > Calendar

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

**The Lady in Question.** Watch this freewheeling satire of patriotic 1940s thrillers such as *Notorious* and *Escape*. Brazen Theatre presents Charles Busch's *The Lady in Question*, the suspenseful tale of Gertrude Garnet, the most glamorous concert pianist on the international stage. On tour in 1940 Bavaria, her colossal self-absorption is challenged when a handsome American professor engages her aid in rescuing his mother from a Nazi prison. 7:30 PM. Through Oct. 3. Lowry Lab Theatre, 350 St. Peter St., St. Paul. (414) 248-6481. <www.brazentheatre.org>.

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

**515.** In Minnesota, at least 515 laws discriminate against families of same-sex couples. In a dynamic collaboration of theater artists, The Flower Shop Project and Project 515 illuminate the inequities faced by same-sex couples, and celebrate a vision of Minnesota where all citizens equally are valued and respected under the law. Through Oct. 10. Patrick's Cabaret, 3010 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls. (612) 724-6273. <www.theflowershopproject.com>.

**Evita.** First Lady of Argentina Eva Perón was a legend in her time. An illegitimate country girl, she rose to become the most powerful woman South America had seen—a potent symbol of hope and change. Theater Latté Da takes a fresh look at this provocative telling of her brief and fascinating life. Through Oct. 31. Ordway Center, McKnight Theatre. 345 Washington St., St. Paul. (651) 224-4222. <www.ordway.org>.

**Neighborhood Night at Midtown Global Market.** Bring down the whole family to meet your friends and neighbors for some free live music, shopping, and plenty of options for food to eat. Every Thursday night is Neighborhood Night. 5-8PM. <www.midtownglobalmarket.org>.

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1

**Kristin Anderson's Girls Night Out.** Comedian Kristin Anderson, along with special guests Lori Dokken and Mary Jo Pehl, will have you rolling in the aisles. No boys allowed. Gays, trannies, and crossdressers welcome. Must be 21 or older. 7 & 9 PM. Pepito's Parkway Theater, 4814 Chicago Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 822-3030. <www.brownpapertickets.com>.



**The Blessing of the Animals.**  
Photo Courtesy of Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church



## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

**The Blessing of the Animals.** Bring your pet to church for a festive celebration of all God's creatures. Invite your friends with pets, too. All are welcome. 11 AM. Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, 511 Groveland Ave., Mpls. (612) 871-5303. <www.hennepinchurch.org>.

**Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon.** Get ready for the 29th annual Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon, whether you're a part of the Neighborhood Cheer Zones or an avid runner. It's not too late to get in shape. To take part in the TC 10K, TC 5K, or Marathon, visit <www.mtcmarathon.org>.

## TICKETS ON SALE

**Rock of Ages.** This five-time Tony-nominated musical stars Tony Award-nominee and *American Idol* finalist Constantine Maroulis. In 1987, on the Sunset Strip, a small-town girl met a big-city dreamer, and in LA's most legendary rock club, they fell in love to the greatest songs of the '80s. Oct. 19-24, Orpheum Theatre, 910 Hennepin Avenue, Mpls. <www.hennepintheatretrust.org>.

## ONGOING

**Always & Forever.** Set in a 1970s urban neighborhood barbershop, the play gives audiences a view of various aspects of love through the eyes and experiences of four African-American men, as they relate their stories through popular R&B songs of the 1960s and 1970s. Includes tunes by the Jackson Five, Percy Sledge, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, and Earth, Wind & Fire. 8 PM. Through Oct. 10. Illusion Theater, 528 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. (612) 339-4944. <www.illusiontheater.org>.

**Cat on a Hot Tin Roof.** The play is set on a plantation deep in the heart of the Mississippi Delta. Brick and Maggie struggle through an unhappy marriage. The entire family gathers to celebrate the birthday of Brick's father, Big Daddy. Throughout the celebration, family secrets are revealed, as Maggie vies for Brick's love. This production is intended for mature audiences. Through Sept. 26. Lyric Arts, 420 E. Main St., Anoka. (763) 433-2510. <www.lyricarts.org>.

**The Dead Sea Scrolls.** History buffs: Check out what is believed to be one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of our time. See the collection of 2,000-year-old documents that shed light on a period in religious history. The scrolls, some of the oldest-surviving written documents in human history, were discovered in a cave along the northwestern shore of the Dead Sea in 1947. Through Oct. 24. Science Museum of Minnesota, 120 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul. <www.smm.org>.

**ECLIPSED.** Frank Theatre presents Danai Gurira's award-winning play, which centers on the lives of five women who are thrown together by the recent civil war in Liberia. Salvaged as chattel from wartime looting, these "wives" of the commanding officer form a hardscrabble sisterhood, and develop their own hierarchy, as they confront questions of survival in their compound. Through Oct. 10. Playwrights' Center, Waring Jones Theatre, 2301 E. Franklin Ave., Mpls. (612) 724-3760. <www.franktheatre.org>.

**The Glass Menagerie.** Amanda, an overbearing single mother, lives on memories of her flower-scented youth, while her children bear the weight of her unrealistic dreams for their futures. But when a gentleman caller offers false hope to the family, their precarious world shatters, with haunting results. Through Oct. 17. Jungle Theater, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S., Mpls. (612) 822-7063. <www.jungltheater.com>.

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## > Calendar



**ECLIPSED.** Photo by Tony Nelson

**Renaissance Festival.** Experience the magic of our realm, as the Minnesota Renaissance Festival, the country's largest Renaissance-themed festival, celebrates its 40th season. 9 AM-7 PM, rain or shine. Through Oct. 3. Located three miles south of Shakopee on Hwy 169. <[www.renaissancefest.com](http://www.renaissancefest.com)>.

**Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead.** This comedy is a look at William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* from the viewpoint of two of its minor characters, the college chums of the Prince of Denmark. We follow these silly, rather likable Elizabethan courtiers, as they pontificate on their journey to Elsinore—clueless as to why they're there, what's their purpose, and even who they are exactly. Through Oct. 2. Theatre in the Round, 245 Cedar Ave., Mpls. (612) 333-3010. <[www.theatreintheround.org](http://www.theatreintheround.org)>.

**The Scottsboro Boys.** It's based on the true story of the infamous 1930s Scottsboro case. A group of nine innocent African-American teenagers falsely was accused of a terrible crime against white women in Alabama. After a series of trials, the Scottsboro events ultimately provoked a national outrage that helped to spark the Civil Rights Movement. Watch as one of the most important and notorious chapters in American history is brought to the stage. 7:30 PM, Through Sept. 25. Guthrie Theater, 818 S. 2nd St., Mpls. (612) 377-2224. <[www.guthrietheater.org](http://www.guthrietheater.org)>. ■



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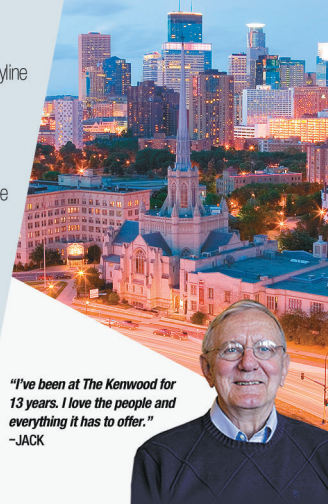
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# Community Connection

Community Connection brings visibility to local GLBT-friendly non-profit organizations. To reserve your listing in Community Connection, call 612-436-4698 or email [advertising@lavendermagazine.com](mailto:advertising@lavendermagazine.com).

## Addiction & Treatment

### Hazelden

Providing comprehensive treatment, recovery solutions. Helping people reclaim their lives from the disease of addiction. P.O. Box 11  
15251 Pleasant Valley Rd Center City, MN  
(800) 257-7800 [www.hazelden.org](http://www.hazelden.org)

## AIDS/HIV & Treatment

### Aliveness Project, The

Community Center for Individuals Living with HIV/AIDS - On-site Meals, Food Shelf and Supportive Services.  
730 East 38th St. Minneapolis, MN  
(612) 824-LIFE (5433) [www.aliveness.org](http://www.aliveness.org)

### HIM Program

One of the Red Door Services of the Hennepin County Public Health Clinic.  
525 Portland Ave. 4th Floor  
Minneapolis, MN  
(612) 348-9100  
[www.himprogram.org](http://www.himprogram.org)  
[www.StopSyphilisNOW.org](http://www.StopSyphilisNOW.org)  
[www.CrystalClearMN.org](http://www.CrystalClearMN.org)  
[www.inSPOT.org/Minnesota](http://www.inSPOT.org/Minnesota)

### MAP AIDSline

MAP AIDSline is the confidential statewide toll-free HIV information and referral service.  
1400 Park Ave. Minneapolis, MN  
(612) 373-AIDS (metro) or  
(800) 248-AIDS (statewide)  
[mapaidline@mnaidproject.org](mailto:mapaidline@mnaidproject.org)  
[www.mnaidproject.org](http://www.mnaidproject.org)

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Minneapolis, MN  
(612) 871-1264  
[www.allina.com/ahs/anw.nsf/page/park\\_house\\_home](http://www.allina.com/ahs/anw.nsf/page/park_house_home)

### U of MN Research Studies

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Minneapolis, MN  
(612) 625-7472

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(612) 870-3000  
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Duluth, MN  
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15 South 9th Street  
Minneapolis, MN  
(612) 332-3361  
[www.artinstitutes.edu/minneapolis](http://www.artinstitutes.edu/minneapolis)

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2117 West River Rd.  
Minneapolis, MN  
(612) 230-6400  
[www.minneapolisbiketour.com](http://www.minneapolisbiketour.com)  
[mpls biketour@minneapolis parks.org](mailto:mpls biketour@minneapolis parks.org)

### Red Ribbon Ride

Four-day Bike Ride in July Benefiting Eight HIV/AIDS Service Organizations in Minnesota.  
4457 3rd Ave. S. Minneapolis, MN  
(612) 822-2110  
[www.redribbonride.org](http://www.redribbonride.org)

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Minneapolis, MN  
(612) 874-7131  
[www.ywcamls.org](http://www.ywcamls.org)

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(866) 434-9736

### Rainbow Health Initiative

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611-A West Lake Street  
Minneapolis, MN  
(877) 499-7744  
[www.rainbowhealth.org](http://www.rainbowhealth.org)  
[www.mntlc.org](http://www.mntlc.org)

### Sexual Health Empowerment (S.H.E.) Clinic

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33 South 5th St.  
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[www.midwesthealthcenter.org](http://www.midwesthealthcenter.org)

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Open Book Minneapolis, MN  
(612) 215-2575  
[www.loft.org](http://www.loft.org)  
[loft@loft.org](mailto:loft@loft.org)

## Media & Communications

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[www.mpr.org](http://www.mpr.org)

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610 Rarig Center  
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Minneapolis, MN  
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[www.HennepinTheatreDistrict.org](http://www.HennepinTheatreDistrict.org)

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[www.HistoryTheatre.com](http://www.HistoryTheatre.com)

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[www.aboutmmt.org](http://www.aboutmmt.org)

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[www.mnopera.org](http://www.mnopera.org)



# Anatomy of a Bad Idea

## Part II

*In Part I of this episode, my girlfriend decided to invite her ex, her ex's new girlfriend, and all their children to my cottage for the weekend. On the day before they were to arrive, my dim-witted contractor failed to show up, and an epic construction-stress-related battle ensued. My girlfriend stormed out, vowing never to return.*

The next morning, I woke with a grinding wine hangover. I reached over to my girlfriend's side of the bed, but the familiar lumpy thing that had been there for the past several months was absent. Then, I realized that she really had left.

It was the morning that her ex and her ex's girlfriend were due to arrive. I had no idea whether she had phoned them to cancel, so when I heard a loud knock at the door, I panicked.

Would I still be obligated to entertain my now ex-girlfriend's ex? What is the etiquette in this situation?

But it wasn't the ladies. Instead, there at my front door at 6 AM was my crack(head) construction crew, which consists of a father/son team, each lazier and no-good than the other.

"What the hell are you doing here?" I asked.

These guys rarely showed up before Noon, and they never, ever knock.

They had a slew of house keys made, and planted them around my house like Easter eggs. I'd hunt for the keys, and toss them out, but they were much too cagey for me.

Every night for weeks, I'd come home from work to find 16-year-old Junior sitting on my couch, an energy drink in one hand and the TV remote in the other, waiting for me to make his dinner.

"You said you needed the house done today," Senior chirped, dropping his tools, and planting himself on a club chair.

"Yesterday. I needed it done yesterday!" I said, using every cell in my being to resist the urge to add "you idiot" to the end of that sentence.

I still needed him to finish the house, after all. And, as I'm sheepish to admit, I'd grown rather fond of them over the past two years.

They are slow, lazy, and temperamental. They use me like their personal ATM every time they get themselves into trouble, which is a lot (they are very handsome, and com-

plete morons when it comes to women). But something puppyish about them makes it impossible for me to stay angry with them.

As I made them breakfast, I reported on the events of the past 24 hours, and how they largely were responsible for the break-up with my girlfriend.

Senior, who never liked my girlfriend, because she was stern with them, and would bark at me each time I offered them a snack, listened sympathetically.

"These damned women, huh?" he said.

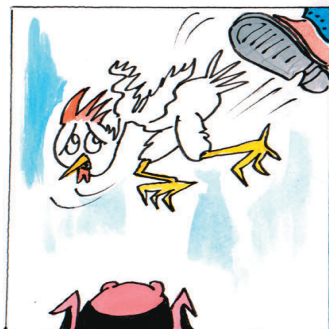
Over the past couple years, as they inched their way to completion of the cottage renovation, I regularly had listened to his lady problems, which were historic in scale. He was married, but that didn't stop him from courting several hot, albeit trashy, divorcees, all of whose first names ended in double vowels.

"I was going to break up with Tracee last night, but then, she sent me this," he said, pulling out his phone, and showing me a naked picture of her. "Nice ass, huh?"

Just as I began to choke up at the thought of my right-wing, small-town handyman comforting the only lesbian in his life with nudie pictures of his girlfriend, a car pulled into the driveway. ■

*Stay tuned for the exciting conclusion. In Part III, my girlfriend returns, her ex and the ex's new girlfriend arrive, and I work heroically to keep the conversation alive.*

### TROLIN, UN DIABLITO ROSA



Get out of the henhouse!



Did they kick you out because you're a gay rooster?  
No, they didn't. They kick me out because I'm a professional.



I refuse to screw hens without a condom!

por RODRO

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www.theatre.umn.edu

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www.animalhumanesociety.org

### Wildcat Sanctuary

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www.wildcatsanctuary.org

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www.twincities.hrc.org www.hrc.org

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www.marrymeminnesota.org

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Minneapolis, MN  
www.mnlogcabin.org

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www.tcpride.org

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St. Paul, MN  
(651) 645-0478  
www.familytreeclinic.org

### Man2Man

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Metro (612) 626-7937  
1-800-552-8636  
www.M2M.mn

## Social Organizations

### Imperial Court of Minnesota

P.O. Box 582417  
Minneapolis, MN  
www.impcourtmn.com

## Social Justice

### Community Shares of Minnesota

Community Shares of Minnesota raises funds and awareness for local organizations fighting for justice and equality.  
1619 Dayton Avenue, Suite 323  
St. Paul, MN  
(651) 647-0440  
changeisbetter.org

## Sports & Recreation

### Twin Cities Goodtime Softball League (TCGSL)

Join 500 GLBT softball players as we celebrate 32 years of gay softball in Minnesota.  
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Minneapolis, MN  
www.tcgsl.org

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www.doorcounty.com

### Grand Marais Area Tourism Association

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(218) 387-2524  
www.grandmarais.com

### Palm Springs Bureau of Tourism

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www.palm-springs.org

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project **515**

www.project515.org




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www.theflowershopproject.com

September 30  
thru  
October 10

**Patrick's Cabaret**





# Blinds on Windows

For the past four Thursday evenings, I've been meeting with a group of individuals drawn together by a shared deeply-felt commitment: No friggin' way in hell were we going to read a Windows 7 manual. We'd rather plunk down 80 bucks to take a Windows 7 class that, after eight hours of intensive training, would enable us to seriously dislike computers, and be more highly confused than we ever dreamed possible.

Now, you may be wondering why, given that in just more than three months, it will be 2011, there are still people who don't know how to use the Windows thing. Let me explain.

When the operating system was first introduced, it sold like crazy. Even so, a large number of Americans, for reasons ranging from "satisfied with computer as-is" to "tossed computer in deep gorge," failed to rush out and purchase this wondrous new software.

This upset Bill Gates, because he's currently building a quaint little 35,000-square-foot house, and was really counting on the extra income to purchase throw rugs. So, he decided that his need for floor coverings far outweighed any consumer need for product choice. Consequently, virtually every new computer on the planet now comes with Windows preinstalled.

At least, that's my understanding of the situation, which I became aware of recently after buying my first computer. The one I was temporarily borrowing from my friend, Jeff, didn't have enough RAM or GOAT, or a Pentium thingee. For those unfamiliar, both these items are absolutely essential if you want to make many, many monthly payments to some consumer retailer.

Once my new computer was set up—a process, by the way, that was surprisingly easy once I stopped hyperventilating long enough to hire a professional computer installer—I turned the machine on.



Then, I turned the machine off.

I glanced through the Windows 7 manual. Then, I set fire to the Windows 7 manual, and enrolled in the class.

I'm happy to report that I now hold an official "Certificate of Training for Completion of the Eight-Hour Course Windows 7," because—and I say this with a deserved measure of pride—my tuition check cleared.

Which isn't to imply that I didn't learn a great many valuable skills. I did. For example, I'm now capable, without the aid of online or in-person assistance, of changing the background color of my computer screen.

I've also become fairly expert at spending a large number of hours actively engaged in any number of absolutely critical

activities. For instance, by using the system's built-in clock/calendar mechanism, I can determine what time it is, at this very moment, in New Caledonia. Or, more importantly, in Islamabad.

The calendar portion of this mechanism provides equally vital information. You can find out, for example, what day your birthday will fall in on, say, 2047. This way, you'll be able to avoid those frequent, embarrassing, darn-I'm-being-embalmed-that-afternoon scheduling conflicts.

Much of what I learned, of course, was very practical. I discovered, for instance, that to open a document, I should repeatedly hit my head against a hard surface, because there are at least nine ways to accomplish this task, and, chances are, I won't be able to remember a single one.

Another fascinating feature of this Windows software—designed to help users better understand that a high-powered computer can, in fact, ruin your life—is the right mouse button. Alert programmers realized, however, that by requiring right clicks for many procedures, consumers would no longer be forced to use a simple system that made actual sense.

On the last night of class, we learned about managing files and folders. This is the way you organize everything in your computer. It's one of the most important aspects of Windows 7.

If you don't understand these concepts, you might as well spend most of your time changing the color of your computer screen to match your socks.

Hmmm, there must be mauve in here somewhere....

What can I say, folks? Consider the source.

Bye for now.

Kiss, kiss. ■

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**Ms. Behavior®** |

[ by Meryl Cohn ]

## Go on Bike Trip?

### Dear Ms. Behavior:

My partner, Molly, and I have a close friend, Tina, who is my athletic buddy. Molly doesn't like to hike or bike or swim, so Tina and I sometimes have "outdoorsy" time on weekends.

Tina recently confessed that she has feelings for me, which feels complicated, because we're supposed to go on a biking fundraiser weekend together, sharing a hotel room (with two beds).

I haven't mentioned Tina's feelings to Molly, because I don't want Molly to be upset, or to force me to stop hanging out with Tina.

Should I still go on the bike trip?

—Chris

### Dear Chris:

You've mentioned Tina's feelings for you, but you haven't said how you feel.

Are you intrigued? Do you fantasize about Tina crawling into your bed at the Holiday Inn?

Sometimes, crushes—or even feelings of romantic love—pass, if they are allowed to shrivel. But a confession can make feelings, particularly if they are shared, grow.

If you don't want anything to happen, you need to be the one to uphold the friendship boundary. That means no mixed messages and no sharing hotel rooms.

Hotels (and tents) are, by nature, intimate places. Secrets get shared. People walk around in their jockey-for-hers. Sometimes, a goodnight kiss turns into a fuckfest. (Have you watched *Brokeback Mountain* lately?)

Keeping a secret from Molly only will make matters worse. Tell her that Tina has feelings for you, and let Molly throw a damp towel on the fantasy. If you have no secrets, over time, the situation may normalize.

Meanwhile, repeat after Ms. Behavior: Hotel rooms are for tribadizing. ■

© 2010 Meryl Cohn. Address questions and correspondence to <msbehavior@aol.com>. She is the author of *Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide to Gay and Lesbian Etiquette* (Houghton Mifflin). Signed copies are available directly from the author.



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